

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L BERLIN 0227

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, WB, GW

SUBJECT: FEDERAL PRESENCE IN WEST BERLIN

REF: BONN 01759

1. SUMMARY: WE AGREE THAT APPROACH TO FRG TO TONE
DOWN POLITICALLY DEMONSTRATIVE ASPECTS OF TIES IN FAVOR
OF STUDIED CASE-BY-CASE APPROACH TO ANY INNOVATIONS (WITH
FULL CONSULTATION WITH ALLIES) OFFERS BEST PROSPECT OF
FULFILLING QA PROVISIONS AS WE UNDERSTAND THEM.
WE ALSO AGREE SOME COOLING-OFF PERIOD MAY BE IN ORDER.
ISSUE OF TIES, HOWEVER, IS ONE ON WHICH ALL POLITICAL
PARTIES IN BERLIN ARE UNITED, AND ACCEPTANCE OF FRENCH
VIEW COULD BE EXPECTED TO LEAD TO DAMAGING CRISIS OF
CONFIDENCE, WITH MUCH OF BLAME ACCRUING TO ALLIES.
END SUMMARY.

2. AMBASSADORS' CONVERSATION ON TIES AND FEDERAL
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PRESENCE STRIKES US AS REFRESHING SMOKING-OUT OF FRENCH

AND BRITISH POSITIONS THAT WE HAVE INCREASINGLY COME TO ASSUME, BUT WHICH TO OUR KNOWLEDGE HAVE HITHERTO NOT BEEN SO EXPLICITLY STATED. WHILE TRUE BRITISH POSITION HAS BEEN EMERGING IN AMBIGUOUS FASHION, SAUVAGNARGUES STANCE AT JANUARY 31 MEETING IS ENTIRELY CONSISTENT WITH FRENCH ATTITUDE JUST PRIOR TO QA SIGNING, WHEN FRENCH WERE READY TO GO AHEAD, DESPITE SOVIET/GDR EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE THROUGH SLANTED TRANSLATION OF "TIES" INTO RUSSIAN AND GERMAN MORE RESTRICTIVE INTERPRETATION THAN HAD BEEN NEGOTIATED IN ENGLISH. IN INTERVENING TWO-AND-HALF YEARS WE HAVE BEEN AT SOME PAINS TO ASSURE WEST BERLINERS AND WEST GERMANS THAT RESTRICTIONS IMPOSED BY QA ON RANGE OF FEDERAL ACTIVITIES WERE PROPERLY BALANCED BY HOPEFUL OPPORTUNITIES MADE POSSIBLE BY QUADRIPARTITE AGREEMENT THAT TIES SHOULD BE MAINTAINED AND FURTHER DEVELOPED.

3. ONE OF MAJOR CAUSES OF RECENT DEBATE OVER FEDERAL ENVIRONMENT AGENCY (FEA), IS THAT SOME POLITICIANS, NOT CONTENT TO REST CASE ON THIS BALANCE, INSISTED ON UNDERMINING IT BY MAKING A POLITICAL DEMONSTRATION OUT OF ISSUE. WITH WATER STILL FLOWING OVER DAM ON THIS QUESTION, WE AGREE WITH AMBASSADOR THAT IT WOULD BE IN ORDER TO ADVISE FRG TO CONSIDER CAREFULLY FURTHER STRENGTHENING FEDERAL PRESENCE AT THIS JUNCTURE. WE SUPPORT, HOWEVER, REFTEL'S VIEW AS TO WHAT IS PERMITTED UNDER QA, AND HOPE THAT LINE CAN BE FIRMLY HELD AGAINST THOSE WHO WOULD WISH TO COMMIT FRG TO RULE OUT ANY FURTHER ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW INSTITUTIONS IN WESTERN SECTORS.

4. IF THERE IS ONE ISSUE ON WHICH ALL THREE BERLIN POLITICAL PARTIES ARE UNITED (AS WELL AS MEDIA AND SUCH GROUPS AS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE) IT IS THE MATTER OF TIES. MOREOVER, CONFIDENCE NEEDED TO ASSURE CITY'S VIABILITY IS RELATED DIRECTLY TO EFFORTS TO MAINTAIN AND DEVELOP THESE TIES. AS INDICATED IN BERLIN A-230, HOWEVER, WE BELIEVE EACH NEW PROPOSAL SHOULD BE STUDIED ON ITS OWN MERITS, AND THAT FULL CONSULTATION SHOULD TAKE PLACE AMONG ALL INTERESTED PARTIES AND ALLIES, TO ASSURE

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AGAINST REPETITION OF FEA FIASCO. ACCORDINGLY, WHILE WE WOULD NOT SUGGEST PUSHING AHEAD ON ANY FRESH PROJECTS FOR TIME BEING, WE WOULD HOPE THAT CARE WOULD BE EXERCISED NOT TO BRING ON CRISIS OF CONFIDENCE IN BERLIN TO WHICH ADOPTION OF FRENCH POSITION WOULD CERTAINLY LEAD. NOR WOULD WE WISH TO LEAVE IMPRESSION THAT SOME FRG POLITICIANS MIGHT BE PRONE TO CREATE: THAT BONN WOULD LIKE VERY MUCH TO FOLLOW UP FEA DECISION WITH OTHER

VENTURES, BUT ALLIES STAND IN WAY.KLEIN

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